

## **King County Mobility Coalition**

### **MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, May 21, 2013, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.  
Shoreline City Hall, First Floor Council Chambers  
17500 Midvale Ave N, Shoreline, WA 98133

#### In attendance

*Members/Alternates:* Gaby Bell, Amy Biggs, Rebekah Binns, Gil Cerise, Dorene Cornwell, Sylvia Fuerstenberg, Ref Lindmark (co-chair), Jacque Mann, Lynn Moody, Scott Ninneman, Alex O'Reilly (co-chair), Jim Seeks, Irene Stewart, George Smith, Suni Tolton, Dinah Wilson, Cindy Zwart

*Collaborators:* Trey Baughman, Jason Beloso, DeAnna Martin, Julie Povick, Matthew Rohrbach, Jamie Schecter, Yvonne Simpson

*Staff:* Jon Morrison Winters

#### Welcome, Introductions & Brief Announcements

Everyone introduced themselves, including the following new collaborators:

#### *New Introductions:*

- Trey Baughman and Jamie Schecter are representatives from NUHSA – the North Urban Human Services Alliance.
- Amy Biggs from Snoqualmie Valley Transportation is nominated as the Rural Services Representative Alternate Member.

#### *Announcements:*

- Jon Morrison Winters announced that Hopelink's Special Needs Transportation Grant Proposal to sustain Mobility Management activities in King County, which includes staff support for the King County Mobility Coalition and three sub-regional coalitions, was funded in full by PSRC.
- Jon also announced that work plan updates are on-going. However, updates will be committee focused, so a separate work group will not need to be formed to update the work plan.
- Gaby Bell announced that Harborview, King County Metro, and Hopelink have been working together to update the Community Travel Maps. It was noted that these maps need to be posted to the KCMC website upon their completion.
- George Smith announced that NUHSA will be hosting a networking event for North King County agencies to share information and pursue collaboration. Information will be provided on the County's plan for revamping Health and Human Services, the efforts to create a low income bus fare in King County, efforts to create a new source of county-wide funding and more.
- Yvonne Simpson announced that 2-1-1 now has information about classes and other resources for prevention and treatment of diabetes. Anyone interested in these resources is encouraged to call 2-1-1 for referrals.

- Alex O'Reilly announced that the work of the Low Income Fare Options Advisory Committee is on-going. Alex has been attending committee meetings as a representative of the Eastside Human Services Forum. There are two more meetings scheduled which will result in recommendations to King County Metro on the potential implementation of a low-income fare. At this point, it is unclear whether the committee will recommend implementation of a low-income fare, due to the service cuts that would need to take place to pay for a reduced fare. So far, the committee has agreed on the following principles:
  - Eligibility for up to 200% of federal poverty level
  - The Human Service Ticket Program should not be replaced
  - A single special needs fare (for seniors, people with a disability, youth, and low-income) is one possibility
  - The least burdensome option for eligibility should be pursued.

More information about the work of the committee is available on the web here:  
<http://www.kingcounty.gov/transportation/LowIncomeOptions.aspx>

### Consent Calendar

*New Members and Alternates:* the Coalition confirmed the appointment of the following members and alternates:

- Allison Scott of Maple Valley Community Center (operator of the Southeast Regional Shuttle) to the Rural Services Representative member seat previously held by B.J. Libby of Mt. Si Senior Center, who is not able to be active on the Coalition.
- Amy Biggs of Mt. Si Senior Center/Snoqualmie Valley Transportation to the Rural Services Representative alternate seat vacated by Allison.
- Mike Shahan of Puget Sound Educational Service District to the School District Transportation Programs alternate seat vacated by Don Walkup, who has retired.
- Cindy Zwart of Senior Services (nominated from the floor) to the Non-profit Human Services Agency (elderly/disabled) member seat previously held by Denise Klein.
- Jim Seeks of Northshore Senior Center (nominated from the floor) to the Non-profit Human Services Agency (elderly/disabled) alternate seat vacated by Cindy.

There was a brief discussion of how additional recent or up-coming retirements will change the Coalition roster. It was noted the "System User" seats do not reflect the current structure of state-wide or county-level advisory committees (at one time, these members were to serve as liaisons to the Developmental Disabilities Council and Accessible Services Advisory Council). Jon noted that he received additional updates and corrections through e-mail, and will be editing the roster to reflect the suggested changes.

*February 19, 2012 Meeting Minutes:* The Coalition deferred approval of the February meeting minutes to the August meeting.

### Briefing: King County Transportation Funding

Co-chair Ref Lindmark introduced DeAnna Martin of King County Department of Transportation. DeAnna presented information on the status of Transportation funding in King

County. Currently, due to declining sales tax and property tax revenues, there are significant funding shortfalls that affect both King County Road Services and King County Metro Transit.

- Metro is faced with service cuts of up to 17%. If additional funding cannot be identified, these cuts will be implemented in September of 2014.
- DeAnna provided handouts that presented an illustration of a 17% cut in service – this would require a reduction of 600,000 annual service hours, going 200,000 hours *beyond* what Metro considers to be unproductive services (routes in the bottom 25% ranked by measures of efficiency). This means that relatively popular, efficient transit service would need to be cut. This compares to the 335,000 *more* service hours that are needed annually just to meet current target service levels, reduce crowding and keep buses on time. Roughly two-thirds of Metro’s bus routes will have to be eliminated, reduced, or revised to close the budget gap.
- Gaby noted that these reductions will push more people onto Access, resulting in higher costs per rider and lower efficiency.
- Lynn Moody asked if this change could result in some Access clients losing service altogether. Deanna responded in the affirmative. Due to the funding challenges that Metro is facing, Access is moving more toward providing only the required federal minimum of service. In fact, as soon as September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013, Access service is being reduced – in some parts of the county, no Access service will be available before 9:00 AM or after 6:00 PM. Currently, Access is still providing “door to door” and “hand to hand” services, which is not required under the ADA.
- Ref compared these cuts to those undergone by Pierce and Snohomish Counties. In Pierce county, some people that had come to rely on ADA service are no longer in the service area. Reductions have unforeseen consequences, including less availability of vehicles in the event of an emergency.
- Jason Beloso asked the Coalition whether we have considered the potential impacts of cuts to our transportation programs. Lynn responded that when Hopelink analyzed the effects of the changes, they found that changes to the fixed route network did not have a large impact on Medicaid clients. However, there is a concern about the impact on Hopelink’s employees.
- Jason asked whether the illustrated cuts that DeAnna provided may be used by agencies doing scenario planning. DeAnna responded in the affirmative and noted that Metro’s service guidelines and other adopted policies would guide implementation of the cuts.
- DeAnna noted that there are funding options on the table to avoid the cuts, but they would require additional funding authority. There is currently a proposal in the state legislature that includes a 1.5% Motor Vehicle Excise Tax in King County. 60% of the funds from the MVET would go toward transit and 40% to roads.
- Jim Seeks thanked DeAnna for her presentation and stated his appreciation for the approach taken by King County Metro on these issues, which is good for system users.

#### Briefing and Discussion: Needs, Gaps, and Duplications/Coordinated Plan

Co-chair Alex O’Reilly introduced Gil Cerise and Matthew Rohrbach of PSRC. Matthew presented on the updates to the Needs, Gaps, and Duplications section of the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan for the four-county Central Puget Sound region. Matthew asked the Coalition for feedback on the updates, including the current list of spatial gaps, temporal gaps, institutional gaps, infrastructure gaps, and awareness gaps.

- Ref noted that we should be asking what technological tools might be available in a couple of years. We should be forward thinking about access to technology.
- Dorene Cornwell agreed. Those without smart phones, the elderly, etc. will need something at the bus stop, not just an app. People with disabilities are 40% less likely to use mobile technology.
- It was noted that lack of service in the “shoulder” hours and at night is a significant gap for service workers and others. Matthew responded that they have heard about this gap from others.
- Rebekah Binns suggested that better night-time transit service could reduce drunk driving. Transportation providers could latch on to the recent campaigns against drunk driving in an effort to increase night-time service which would be more readily available to shift workers and others who depend on transit for night-time trips.
- Other issues raised included affordability; negative attitudes about public transit among older adults; the importance of safety; the lack of adequate pedestrian infrastructure for connectivity such as sidewalks, shelters, and benches; lift-equipped buses and vans for wheelchairs; the “time gap” while individuals are waiting for an Access eligibility determination, and parking issues (Park and Rides are at capacity).

#### Report and Discussion: Vulnerable Populations Disaster Planning Conference

Ref introduced Jason Beloso of WSDOT, who helped plan the Vulnerable Populations Disaster Planning Conference, which was held at Emerald Downs in Auburn on March 20<sup>th</sup>. Jason said that the Conference was well attended, with a waiting list of 175 people. The emphasis of the conference was on coordination and encouraging agencies to plan for emergencies. Conference attendees learned about the following topics:

- The role of emergency managers. Each city has an emergency manager, who is the “go-to” person in the event of an emergency.
- Three stages of disaster planning: preparation, management, and recovery.
- Prioritizing services and dealing with the risk of emergency situations that are minor, moderate (such as an earthquake below 6.0 MMS), severe (6.0 and above), or extreme (e.g. 6.0 and above with a tsunami).
- The need for more up-front planning (the statewide Human Services Transportation plan will include a disaster planning element)
- The priority of sustaining acute care services such as kidney dialysis.
- Ways for vulnerable populations to participate in planning efforts
- Who takes charge in an emergency?

Jason’s report was followed by a discussion of takeaways and next steps.

- Jim stated the assumption is that services will be there to turn to in the event of a disaster, but this is not always the case. For instance, Northshore Senior Center could be cut off from the surrounding area. Also, small details like providing fuel can become increasingly important.
- Gaby stressed the need for people to connect to each other and for individuals to be prepared beforehand – pointing to the need to educate and connect the community.
- Ref commented on the role of local jurisdictions and emergency planners.

- Jason asked whether disaster planning is a topic that belongs in our transportation planning efforts. Irene Stewart responded that our planning needs to be refreshed – we need to fill in the gaps and learn from recent events such as the Boston Marathon bombing and aftermath and Hurricane Sandy.
- Others noted that vulnerable populations are a missing component in many planning efforts and commented on existing efforts and other ideas to improve disaster planning.

Jason concluded by inviting Coalition members to attend the High Risk Population Disaster Planning Summit, Tuesday June 18<sup>th</sup> in Tacoma.

### Quick Briefings

- George Smith updated the Coalition on the work of the North King County Mobility Coalition, including involvement in station area planning, partnering with Growing Transit Communities equity grantees, and the recent listening session at King County Housing Authority's Paramount House Apartments.
- Amy Biggs gave an update on the Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative. The EERC continues to develop a strategy to increase bus ticket donations under the Transit Incentives Program, and is also planning a community convening in advance of the November Growing Transit Communities Equity Summit. In addition, we are engaging with SVT, Metro, and other partners in the planning of Alternative Services in Snoqualmie Valley.
- Jon gave the update on the South King County Mobility Coalition. The South King County Mobility Coalition represents very diverse interests, so they have begun meeting in smaller committees to allow members to focus on their desired arenas of action and specific projects. The first meetings of the "Projects" Committee and the "Policy/Coordination" Committee were held in April.
- Gaby gave an update on the work of the Livable Communities Committee. This committee's current project, nicknamed the "benchmarking" project, involves promoting the use of benches as a form of respite for pedestrians. Benches are particularly important for seniors, people with disabilities, and people who must walk long distances. The sub-committee working on this project is developing a scope, which may include creating a bench policy toolkit for cities and agencies, sending quarterly e-mails to agencies, and doing additional research on the process of installing benches on public and private property. The subcommittee is looking for additional members.
- Dinah Wilson updated the Coalition on the work of the Outreach Committee. This Committee is developing a pilot project that will involve assessing the needs of case managers and discharge planners at medical facilities for arranging transportation and communicating transportation information to patients in transition. The committee has set up a meeting with SeaMar Community Health Centers to determine their level of interest in the project. Cindy Zwart noted that five additional languages are being

added to the multi-lingual Community Travel Tips videos: Cantonese, Mandarin, Korean, Vietnamese, and Arabic.

- Jon provided the Mobility Manager's update. In addition to staffing the King County Mobility Coalition, the Coalition's committees, and the three subregional coalitions, Jon has been working with a project team and external stakeholders on the One Stop Access Project (previously referred to as "the kiosk project"). Currently, the project team is focused on creating a "one-stop" website that will improve access to information about community transportation and veterans transportation and improve the mobility of veterans and other users.

### Next Steps

Jon noted that the conversation about updates to the KCMC roster was had at the beginning of the meeting and he also received good feedback through e-mail.

Lynn Moody suggested a future agenda item that would involve looking at how transportation plans at various levels are coordinated and work together. Alex replied that we may want to engage some planning activities at our next meeting.

- Next Meeting: **Tuesday, August 20, 2013** from 9:00 – 11:00 AM at the **Bellevue City Hall**, 450 110th Ave NE Bellevue, WA 98004 in room 1E-108

Agendas, minutes and handouts from past Coalition meeting are available online at:  
<http://metro.kingcounty.gov/tops/kccsnt/agendas-minutes.html>